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**BUMP ENCOURAGES ACTION ON PROPOSED WORKERS' COMP
RATE CUT**

BOSTON—March 2, 2007--- Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development designate Suzanne M. Bump today reacted favorably to yesterday's decision by the Workers' Compensation Rating and Inspection Bureau of Massachusetts to cut workers' compensation insurance rates by 13.4 percent for the policy period beginning September 1, 2007.

"This decision shows that the systemic improvements made in 1991, which placed greater emphasis on safety, continue to pay dividends today," said Bump. "This reform made the system work effectively and efficiently to deliver compensation and care to workers as well as improve safety. It is a prime example of how government can be more responsive as a whole."

Bump, a former state representative from Braintree, co-chaired the legislative Committee on Commerce and Labor in the early 1990's, and was the principal legislative author of the sweeping Workers' Compensation Reform Act of 1991.

Bump noted that such reforms mirror efforts being made by the Administration of Governor Deval Patrick and Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray to replicate this success across state government to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

If this proposed rate filing were to be approved by the state Commissioner of Insurance, average workers' compensation rates in Massachusetts would fall to 64 percent less than they were in 1991. Rate cuts over the last two years have saved Massachusetts employers as much as \$10 million.

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“This is great news for both business and labor. The money saved from reduced insurance costs can be reinvested into the workforce to enhance safety training and employee benefits,” said Paul Byrne, Chairman of the Workers’ Compensation Advisory Council.

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